

the area to take advantage of the community's thriving agriculture industry, and by the late 1940s, Bellflower's population boomed to more than 44,000. As the town's population continued to grow, the community began to consider incorporation. And on September 3, 1957, the proud community was granted a certificate of city incorporation and became California's 348th city.

Fifty years later, Bellflower has blossomed into a dynamic and diverse community of more than 77,000 people. The city has left its rural roots behind, and is now focused on attracting new, quality businesses to a community that houses more than 3,000 merchants. Bellflower also remains committed to community development and has several projects in the works that will help beautify an already attractive city, including the opening of Pirate Park—a pirate-themed play area—the restoration of the historic Pacific Electric Railway Depot and the development of the three-acre Palm Street Linear Park, which will feature bike and walking trails.

Bellflower will mark its 50th anniversary in mid-October with a week of exciting events, including its annual Liberty Day Parade, a fireworks show, a cow-milking contest and several concerts. I'm honored to recognize this historic milestone in this city's rich history.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Bellflower's first 50 years as this thriving community continues to live by its motto of "Growing Together" and works toward a prosperous future.

HONORING RICHARD J. MCCANN

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard "Dick" McCann for receiving the Distinguished Citizens Award from the Three Fires Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Dick first began his journey as a Cub Scout, where he quickly learned to love the adventure of the outdoors. A few years later, as a Boy Scout, Dick had the opportunity to attend the three-week-long National Jamboree in Anaheim, California. Through his experiences as a Boy Scout, Dick developed the perseverance that has helped him achieve so much as a business and community leader in later life.

Dick's strong moral grounding and commitment to hard work were instrumental as he set out to begin his career. With \$1,500 borrowed from family, friends and neighbors, Dick started a construction company in a one-car garage in Villa Park.

Under his visionary leadership, McCann Construction Specialties Company soon grew into McCann Industries, directly employing more than 150 individuals in my congressional district. Their economic activity indirectly supports the jobs of countless others. Dick McCann and McCann Industries are a prime example of the hard work and productivity that sets American businesses apart in the global marketplace.

As Dick's experience and industry expertise became apparent, he was tapped by his peers

to serve as a board member of the Underground Contractors Association and the Concrete Contractors Association of Greater Chicago, as well as President of the Associated Construction Distributors International and President of the Illinois Equipment Distributors.

Although Dick retired from McCann Industries several years ago, he has left an indelible mark on both the company and the construction industry at large, working to build a corporate culture of integrity that reflects his many years of involvement with the Boy Scouts. McCann Industries continues to set the standard for construction businesses.

In addition to his professional accolades, Dick serves an executive board member and sits on the facilities committee of the Three Fires Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He has devoted countless hours to planning the Council's new Cub Scout Adventure Camp and I am confident that this endeavor, like everything Dick has set his mind to, will be a tremendous success.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Dick McCann, a remarkable individual, is being deservedly honored with the Distinguished Citizens Award. Please join me in honoring this outstanding achievement.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER CHASE PARRISH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Chase Parrish, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 260, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Chase Parrish for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE ON THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2007, PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I rise to introduce a resolution congratulating the Ukrainian people for the holding of free, fair

and transparent parliamentary elections on September 30, 2007. These elections were held in a peaceful manner consistent with Ukraine's democratic values, and in keeping with that nation's commitments as a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

While there were some shortcomings, these elections stand in contrast to the vast majority of elections that have taken place in the countries of the former Soviet Union over the course of the last 15 years. Tone Tingsgaard, the Special Coordinator of the short-term election observers for the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) and Vice President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, stated that these elections were conducted "in a positive and professional manner." The OSCE-led IEOM's preliminary statement concluded that the elections confirmed an open and competitive environment for the conduct of the election process and that freedom of assembly and expression were respected. IEOM observers assessed the voting process as good or very good in 98 percent of the nearly 3,000 polling stations visited, notwithstanding some shortcomings, notably with respect to the quality of voter lists, and the vote count was assessed as good or very good in 94 percent of the IEOM reports.

These pre-term elections did not come about easily, coming on the heels of a political crisis that engulfed Ukraine's president, prime minister, and parliament for several months earlier this year. These political disputes were rooted in weak constitutional delineations of the powers of the president and prime minister. After weeks of tense standoff, however, agreement was reached on May 27 stipulating new parliamentary elections for September 30. Now that the elections have concluded, it is my hope that Ukraine's political leaders will form a government reflecting the will of the Ukrainian people as expressed by the results of the elections; a government that advances political stability and democratic development. It is my hope, too, that the new parliament and government will focus on the constitutional framework, especially the question of separation of powers, in order to avoid the political uncertainty that we witnessed earlier this year. Ukraine also needs to further undertake the hard work of strengthening the rule of law, including an independent judiciary, and fighting corruption.

Madam Speaker, the conduct of these elections is a testament to the Ukrainian people's determined path towards the consolidation of democracy as Ukraine advances its integration with the Euro-Atlantic community. As such, Ukraine serves as a model for the post-Soviet countries, all too many of which have unfortunately retreated to heavy-handed authoritarianism.

This House can pride itself on having been a staunch supporter of freedom, human rights and democracy in Ukraine for many years—even before the restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991. As this resolution underscores, it is important to continue our efforts to the further development of a democratic system in Ukraine based on the rule of law, a free market economy, and consolidation of Ukraine's security and sovereignty. I urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution.